

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 7-17 remain pending in this application, with claims 1, 12, and 16 being in independent form. Claims 1, 10, 12, and 16 have been amended. Claim 6 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

Claims 1-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from U.S. Patent 6,243,450 to Jansen in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,740,161 to Porter.

Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 12, and 16, together with the claims dependent therefrom, are patentably distinct from the cited references for at least the following reasons.

The present invention as set forth in claim 1 is intended to provide members of the public with a portal providing access to a wide range of services, including use of a computer, printer, intranet, video conferencing, etc. In one non-limiting embodiment of the invention, members of the public can interact with a portal providing them with access to the internet, thereby enabling them to take advantage of the many benefits that the internet provides. By virtue of the features of the invention, many people, whether rich or poor, computer-literate or not, living in developed geographic areas or not, can be provided with easy access to all such computer- and internet- related services. Accordingly, the so-called “digital divide” can be narrowed.

Claim 1 is directed to a public-access e-commerce service portal providing a user access to an internet. The portal comprises a computer including a display screen, a card reader adapted to read financial account information from a card, an input device adapted to provide alphanumeric and screen-coordinate information selected by the user, a drive unit adapted to read data from and write data to a removable data storage medium, and a printer unit. The

computer is programmed to permit a user to selectively operate the units after the user enters a valid log-on ID or to establish a log-on ID for a new user after receiving answers manually input to the computer by the new user in response to predetermined demographic questions, and to test the validity of financial account information, PIN number, and log-on ID entries made by users.

The portal also comprises a video camera, which inputs video images, connected to the computer, the computer being programmed to use the video camera to provide video-conference service to the user. A telecommunications link is adapted to connect the computer to an e-commerce intranet providing free services to the user, the free services including information resources and free access to selected e-commerce intranet sites and contact with an intranet agent at an e-commerce service facility. The portal further comprises a service unit including electric power and data connectors for use by a portable computing device.

Jansen, as understood by Applicant, relates to pay-per-use for data-network-based public access services. Porter, as understood by Applicant, relates to synchronizing viewed information in a video conferencing environment.

First, in the *Response to Arguments* section at page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner states:

Applicant alleges that the prior art made of record fails to teach a video camera. The examiner disagrees with applicant's representatives since Porter teaches a video camera...

However, the Examiner's statement is incorrect. Applicant did not argue in the previous Response that the cited art fails to teach a video camera; rather, Applicant argued that the Examiner used impermissible hindsight to include the video camera of Porter in the Jansen system. Specifically, Applicant argued that the Examiner's reliance on Porter is misplaced

and that the Examiner has not made out a *prima facie* showing of obviousness, since there is no suggestion in Jansen of a need for a video camera for video conferencing, in Jansen's kiosk for pay-per-use services; Jansen's kiosk is intended for use in *public* locations, while the videoconferencing in Porter is for a *private* (controlled) environment.

The Examiner states (at page 2 of the Office Action) that "Both Jansen and Porter disclose a video display in private and public usage." In this regard, the Examiner cites, of relevant note, column 6, lines 35-43 of Jansen. Applicant assumes the Examiner is referring to the portion of that citation which states that "the display and touchscreen are integrated into a single unit approximately 10 to 12 inches diagonal and has an adjustable viewing cone for public and private usage applications." However, that the display of Jansen has an "adjustable viewing cone" in an effort to increase viewing privacy does not change the fact that Jansen's kiosk is intended for use in public locations – indeed, it *amplifies* that fact. The adjustable viewing cone of Jansen is simply for enclosing a display and touchscreen, and the purpose of such "private usage application" is to shield the display from passers-by who may wish to look over the user's shoulder. Thus, the adjustable viewing cone merely relates to a display, and provides no suggestion of the need for a video camera for video conferencing in Jansen's Web-Based Public Access Service kiosk.

The Examiner spends most of the rest of the paragraph bridging pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action showing that Porter discloses a video camera for videoconferencing, which, again, Applicant never disagreed with.

Even assuming *arguendo* that the combination of Jansen and Porter were permissible (and, again, Applicant submits that such combination would not be) nothing in Jansen or Porter would teach or suggest at least the following features of claim 1.

First, claim 1 recites that the computer is programmed “to establish a log-on ID for a new user after receiving answers manually input to the computer by the new user in response to predetermined demographic questions”. See the present application at, e.g., page 19, lines 1-17.¹ By virtue of this feature, local e-commerce market demographics can be determined, and new users can anonymously access any of the free e-commerce intranet services. Moreover, since the user inputs demographic information and not identifying information, the user can be assured of privacy in using the services on the portal’s e-commerce intranet.

For this feature the Examiner cites Jansen, from column 9, line 20, to column 10, line 32. However, that portion of Jansen merely discusses a service record (e.g., 231 of Fig. 9) including various sub-fields relating to services requested or provided. No predetermined demographic questions are provided for a new user to manually respond to. No such answers to predetermined demographic questions are received by the computer, as required by claim 1. No log-on ID is established, as required by claim 1. The Examiner appears to be ignoring the claim terms, because in Jansen, the only question put to a user is a request for the user to indicate a preferred payment method (column 10, lines 1-3), which is not a demographic question.

It is well settled that "All words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art." MPEP § 2143.03 (quoting *In re Wilson*, 424 F.2d 1382, 1385, 165 USPQ 494, 496 (CCPA 1970)). If the Examiner still maintains that Jansen discloses the above-noted features, the Examiner is requested to explain how the cited portion of Jansen does so, rather than simply citing to column and line number with no accompanying

¹It is of course to be understood that the references to various portions of the present application are by way of illustration and example only, and that the claims are not limited by the details shown in the portions referred to.

explanation.

Claim 1 also recites “said free services including... contact with an intranet agent at an e-commerce service facility.” The Examiner points to Jansen as teaching this feature (citing Fig. 4; column 6, line 32, to column 7, line 6; column 1, lines 54-63). However, the cited portions of Jansen merely refer to a communications port 102 connected to a pay phone interface 106 which is connected to a central office line 24. The central office line 24 is simply a telephone line connected to a public telephone network for providing pay phone services; it does not provide free services including contact with an intranet agent at an e-commerce service facility, as in claim 1. As stated at column 3, lines 24-25 of Jansen: “The telephone 20 is in communication with a public telephone network 22 via a central office telephone line 24.”

Here, too, the Examiner appears to be ignoring the claim terms. If the Examiner still maintains that Jansen discloses the above-noted features, the Examiner is requested to explain how the cited portion of Jansen does so, rather than simply citing to column and line number with no accompanying explanation.

Claim 1 also now recites that the portal further comprises “a service unit including electric power and data connectors for use by a portable computing device.” (Similar subject matter was previously recited in dependent claim 6.) See the present specification from, e.g., page 28, line 8, to page 29, line 2. By virtue of this feature, people who have portable computing resources with them, such as laptop computers, can access, through the connectors, services provided by the portal.

The Examiner cites Jansen, at column 1, lines 27-31, as teaching a feature previously recited in claim 6. That portion of Jansen states:

A public multimedia system is a combination of public terminals, such as telephones and personal computers and includes a method or apparatus to administer these public terminals and a method or apparatus for hosting application computer programs on this system.

Thus, the cited portion merely states that multimedia systems include a personal computer, which is entirely unremarkable. The cited disclosure is general and the description of Fig. 1 of Jansen, which is an embodiment of that patent, does not include a place for a laptop or portable computing device or a place for the user to connect his or her own laptop or portable computing device to the kiosk. Nothing in Jansen would teach or suggest a service unit including electric power and data connectors for use by a portable computing device, as recited in claim 1.

Yet again, the Examiner appears to be ignoring the claim terms. If the Examiner still maintains that Jansen discloses the above-noted features, the Examiner is requested to explain how the cited portion of Jansen does so, rather than simply citing to column and line number with no accompanying explanation.

For all of the foregoing reasons, claim 1 is believed to be clearly allowable over the cited references.

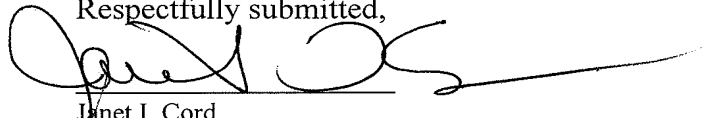
Independent claims 12 and 16 recite features which are similar in many relevant respects to those discussed above in connection with independent claim 1. Accordingly, claims 12 and 16 are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

For example, dependent claim 2 recites “a second telecommunications link, said second link being a switched link, said computer being further programmed to initiate a call back over the switched link when a service selected by the user requires a fee to be paid by the user.” The Examiner cites Jansen as disclosing this feature (at Fig. 10; and column 9, line 51, to column 10, line 15). However, that portion of Jansen merely discusses that a prompt on the display requests the user to indicate a preferred payment method. A prompt on a display is not a call back over a switched link.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Janet I. Cord', written over a horizontal line.

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